In The Claims:

Upon entry of this amendment, the claims shall be as indicated below.

1. (Currently Amended) In a digital copier machine of the type including a platen for capturing a source document in the form of digital data representative of the source document and including at least one paper bin for supplying paper onto which the digital data can be transformed into a printed image in response to signals issuing from a control unit based on selections made at an interface, the improvement comprising:

a tray sized and positioned in the digital copier machine so as to occupy a space ordinarily reserved for the at least one paper bin, the ~~bin~~ tray including:

an optical drive unit connectable to the control unit and configured to removably receive a removable digital storage medium in the form of an optical disc and further configured to perform read and write operations on any removable digital storage medium received therein; and

a picker configured to deliver the removable digital storage medium from a supply of a plurality of removable digital storage media in the form of optical discs included within the tray to the drive unit in response to a load drive unit signal; and

wherein the digital copier machine includes:

a selector on the interface; and

operational logic responsive to a user selection of the selector to issue the load drive unit signal and to convey the digital data between the control unit of the digital copier machine and the drive unit.

2. (Previously Presented) The digital copier machine of claim 1, wherein the drive unit receives removable digital storage media through either of first and second accesses, the first access being positioned within the tray and the second access being in a wall of the tray, the picker supplying media to be received at the first access and a user supplying media to be received at the second access, the first and second accesses being different than one another.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The digital copier machine of claim 1, wherein the operational logic comprises an executing software program.

5. (Original) The digital copier machine of claim 1, wherein the load drive unit signal is issued by the control unit.

6. (Original) The digital copier machine of claim 1, wherein the load drive unit signal is issued by the drive unit.

7. (Original) The digital copier machine of claim 1, wherein the picker is centrally positioned relative to plural supplies of respective pluralities of removable digital storage media.

8. (Original) The digital copier machine of claim 7, further comprising a base plate configured to seat at least one of the plural supplies.

9. (Original) The digital copier machine of claim 8, wherein the base plate is configured to seat two or more of the plural supplies.

10. (Original) The digital copier machine of claim 9, wherein the base plate is configured to seat the plural supplies in vertical stacks.

11. (Original) The digital copier machine of claim 10, further comprising a lift operative to simultaneously elevate the vertical stacks of removable digital storage media in each of the supplies.

12. (Original) The digital copier machine of claim 11, wherein the picker is governed by the operational logic to respond to the load drive unit signal so as to deliver removable digital storage media from each of the supplies such that the count of removable digital storage media in the vertical stacks of each supply is within a prescribed tolerance.

13. (Original) The digital copier machine of claim 12, wherein the prescribed tolerance is four removable digital storage media.

14. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling a job output of a digital copier machine of the type including a platen for capturing a source document in the form of digital data representative of the source document and including at least one paper bin for supplying paper onto which the digital data can be transformed into a printed image as an output medium, comprising the steps of:

providing a user interface having a display and a set of entry options, one of the entry options permitting a user to select the output medium for the job;

receiving a user selection through the user interface, the user selection setting the output medium for the job to be a removable digital storage medium in the form of an optical disc;

supplying the removable digital storage medium from a supply contained in a tray which is sized and positioned in the digital copier machine so as to occupy a space ordinarily reserved for the at least one paper bin;

automatically loading the removable digital storage medium from the supply onto an optical drive unit included within the tray in response to the user selection;

transferring a copy of the source document to the removable digital storage medium in the drive unit; and

ejecting the digital storage medium from the drive unit into a return for retrieval from the tray.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, including the additional step of processing the source document into a digital document format representative of the image on the source document.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, including the additional step of processing the digital document format into a file format suitable for writing to the removable digital storage medium.

17. (Original) The method of claim 14, including the additional step of processing the digital document format into a file format suitable for writing to the removable digital storage medium.

18. (Original) The method of claim 14, including the additional steps of transferring a job identifier to the drive unit and writing data onto the removable digital storage medium that concerns the job identifier.

19. (Original) The method of claim 14, including the additional step of adding visible indicia to the exterior surface of the removable digital storage medium, the visible indicia including a job identifier.

20. (Previously Presented) In a digital copier machine of the type including a platen for capturing a source document in the form of digital data representative of the source document and including at least one paper bin for supplying paper onto which the digital data can be transformed into a printed image in response to signals issuing from a control unit based on selections made at an interface, the improvement comprising:

an optical drive unit connectable to the control unit and configured to removably receive a removable digital storage medium in the form of an optical disc and further configured to perform read and write operations on any removable digital storage medium received therein; and

a picker configured to deliver the removable digital storage medium from a supply of a plurality of removable digital storage media in the form of optical discs to the drive unit in response to a load drive unit signal;

a selector on the interface; and

operational logic responsive to a user selection of the selector to issue the load drive unit signal and to convey the digital data corresponding to the captured source document on the platen of the digital copier machine between the control unit of the digital copier machine and the drive unit.

21. (Previously Presented) The digital copier machine of claim 20, wherein the operational logic is further configured to issue subsequent load drive unit signals if the volume of digital data conveyed between the control unit and the drive unit exceeds the capacity of a first optical disc loaded in the optical drive unit.